

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 180425Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4530

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MY, TH

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN-THAI RELATIONS: GHAZALI SHAFIE VISIT TO BANGKOK

REF: A. K.L. 4493

B. BANGKOK 14184

C. K.L. 4150

D. K.L. 4090

1. SUMMARY: HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE  
VISITED BANGKOK SEPT 12-13 TO INFORM RTG OF RECENT GOM CABINET  
CHANGES, INCLUDING APPOINTMENT OF SABAH CHIEF MINISTER TUN  
MUSTAPHA AS DEFENSE MINISTER, AND TO REASSURE RTG THAT GOM  
POLICIES WOULD BE UNCHANGED UNDER NEW RAZAK ADMINISTRATION. AS  
YET HOWEVER, THERE NO INDICATION THAT MAJOR ISSUES FACING  
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GOM-RTG GENERAL BORDER COMMITTEE (GBC HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.  
RAZAK-SANYA MEETING IS STILL IN OFFING BUT NO AGREEMENT REACHED

YET ON DATES AND VENUE. END SUMMARY.

2. MALAY LANGUAGE DAILY "BERITA HARIAN" SEPT 14 CARRIED GOM NEWS AGENCY BERNAMA REPORT THAT GHAZALI SHAFIE PAID BRIEF VISIT TO BANGKOK SEPT 13-14 FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF GBC. BERNAMA SAID THAT GBC CONSIDERED IMPROVEMENTS IN GOM-RTG SECURITY COOPERATION AND IT AGREED THAT TWO NATIONS SHOULD INCREASE EXCHANGES AND VISITS OF OFFICIALS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FIELD. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS MAY APPEAR TO BE NON SEQUITUR, PM RAZAK DURING PRE-ELECTION VISIT TO KELANTAN CALLED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION WITH RTG TO STEM PIRACY, ILLEGAL FISHING AND OTHER INIMICAL CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES; SEE REF D). GHAZALI, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE HANIF OMAR, ALSO PROMISED INCREASED ANTI-TERRORIST VIGILANCE ALONG BORDER IN COOPERATION WITH THAI SECURITY FORCES.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SEPT 16, THAI EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER CHAWAT ARTHAYUKHI SAID THAT PUBLICLY-STATED PURPOSE OF GHAZALI SHAFIE'S VISIT TO BANGKOK FOR GBC SESSION WAS TO FAREWELL MARSHALL DAWEE BEFORE LATTER'S RETIREMENT IN OCTOBER. MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT, ACCORDING TO CHAWAT, WAS TO INFORM RTG OF RECENT MALAYSIAN CABINET CHANGES (SEE K.L. 4352 AND 4324), NOTABLY APPOINTMENT OF TUN MUSTAPHA AS DEFENSE MINISTER, AND TO REASSURE RTG THAT GOM POLICIES TOWARD THAILAND WOULD BE UNCHANGED UNDER NEW RAZAK ADMINISTRATION.

4. CHAWAT SAID THAT MUSTAPHA'S APPOINTMENT IS OF SOME CONCERN TO RTG BUT THAT HIS INFLUENCE IN CABINET WILL PROBABLY NOT BE FELT FOR SIX MONTHS OR SO. CHAWAT CONTINUED THAT GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLEMAKING VIS-A-VIS THAILAND WOULD BE HEIGHTENING OF RELIGIOUS TENSIONS IF MUSTAPHA SOUGHT SUPPORT WITHIN CENTRAL GOVT FOR ISLAMICIZATION POLICIES HE HAS PROMOTED IN SABAH. HE SAID THAT MUSTAPHA'S APPOINTMENT HOLDS MORE IMMEDIATE SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PHILIPPINES THAN FOR MALAYSIA'S OTHER NEIGHBORS. ALSO, CHAWAT NOTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT INDONESIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE HAVE SHOWN MORE INTEREST IN MUSTAPH'S APPOINTMENT THAN HAS RTG IN BANGKOK.

5. REGARDING RAZAK-SANYA MEETING, CHAWAT SAID THAT PLANS ARE  
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STILL TENTATIVE FOR LATE OCTOBER-EARLY NOVEMBER DEPENDING UPON TIMING OF THAI CONSTITUTION APPROVAL AND RELATED INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. CHAWAT OPINED THAT MALAYSIAN-THAI RELATIONS, EVEN IF THERE WERE ANOTHER DISRUPTION SUCH AS THAT PROVOKED BY LAND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK ASRI IN MID-JUNE, WOULD NOT LIKELY AFFECT BASIC THAT PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL POLITICS UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD, PERHAPS IN LATE JANUARY.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NEITHER CHAWAT NOR PRESS REPORTS HERE INDICATED THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON MODALITIES OF BORDER

POLICING SUCH AS EXTENDING ZONE OF HOT PURSUIT FOR THAI FORCES  
AND STATIONING THAI SECURITY PERSONNEL IN KELANTAN, TWO OUTSTAND-  
ING PROBLEMS OUTLINED BY CHAWAT PER REF C, FACT THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE  
CONTINUING IN GBC CONTEXT IS POSITIVE SIGN.  
UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**To:** STATE BANGKOK  
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